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Date: April 20, 2009

Patent 0-06-165 (16708/US/05)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Yerushalmi-Rozen  
Serial no.: 10/587,113  
Filed: June 25, 2008  
Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF DISPERSIONS  
OF CARBON NANOTUBES  
Examiner: Vickie Marie Nerangis  
Art Unit: 1796  
Confirmation: 9526

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

Response to Restriction Requirement

This response is in reply to the office action mailed on April 9, 2009.

The Examiner has arbitrarily divided the pending claims into three allegedly separate inventions, stating that the common feature that might unite the inventions is not novel in view of Kang et al. (2003). In particular, the examiner wrote, its "position that this technical relationship [between the Groups] does not amount to a special technical feature because the composition comprising nanotubes and a block copolymer fails to define a contribution over the prior art. Specifically, Kang et al. . . . disclose a method of encapsulating single-walled carbon nanotubes with micelles derived from block copolymer."

We respectfully traverse the Examiner's grouping and assertion that the common feature that might unite the inventions is not novel in view of Kang et al. In particular, it is applicant's opinion that Kang et al. do not deprive the instant claims of novelty for the following reasons:

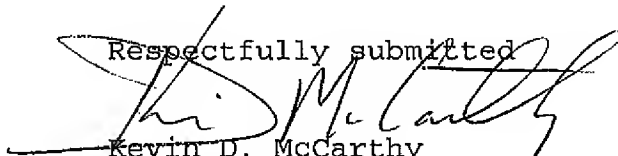
- 1) Kang's article (denoted below as D1), presents a method for dispersion of carbon nanotubes based on encapsulation of nanotubes in micelles. In the instant approach, however, there are no micelles because the instant polymer concentration is below the concentration at which micelles appear in an aqueous solution, and as for the organic solvents - no micelles would appear there.

- 2) A necessary step in the method described in D1 is crosslinking of the block copolymer, whereas no cross-linking is employed in the instant method. As described in D1: "encasing the nanotubes within cross-linked amphiphilic copolymer micelles"... "the copolymer shell is permanently fixed" "the PAA blocks of the micellar shells were permanently linked".
- 3) Water is a necessary ingredient in D1, whereas organic solvents may be used in the instant method without any water. This is important as the instant method is applicable in situations where water may be destructive (such as conjugated polymers or other systems that degrade in the presence of water).

Despite the applicant's traversal of the restriction requirement, applicant elects Group I with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted

  
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